

the Motor Vehicles Act. The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollution include the following:

- The ambient air quality is being monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.
- Promotion of clean fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as auto fuels.
- Unleaded petrol has been introduced with effect from 1.2.2000 in the entire country.
- Low sulphur fuel has been introduced in major cities.
- Fiscal incentives are available for use of CNG/LPG kits.
- Non benzene petrol has also been introduced in some metropolitan cities.
- Optimization of traffic and improvements in traffic management system.
- Checking adulteration of fuels.

Due to various measures taken, the air pollution levels in respect of certain parameters have come down in Delhi.

Killing of animals in zoological parks

4626. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether brutal killing of large number of animals in different zoological parks of the country was reported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details of such killings, zoological parks-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any enquiry had been ordered in each case;

(d) if so, the result of such enquiries incident-wise;

(e) whether staff/persons responsible for such killings have been punished;

(f) whether some preventive measures have been taken to check these incidents in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) As per the information available with the Ministry, there are only 2 cases of deliberate killing of animals in the zoo during last three years *i.e.* killing of a tigress in Hyderabad Zoo and killing of a caiman in Nandankanan Zoo. In case of killing of tigress, State Government of Andhra Pradesh has handed over the case to State CID for enquiry and has also put 4 employees of zoo under suspension. State Government of Orissa has dismissed the animal keeper from service and a criminal case is filed against him for killing the caiman.

(f) and (g) Important measures taken by the Government to protect wildlife in zoos are as follows:

♦ Government of India has established Central Zoo Authority under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the objective of enforcing standards for housing, upkeep and health care of zoo animals. Central Zoo Rules have also been incorporated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing standards and norms for the upkeep, housing and health care of animals in the zoos.

♦ A three pronged strategy has been devised for improvement of zoos in the country.

- (a) No new zoo to be established for the time being.
- (b) To close the zoos where the possibility of bringing the status of management of zoo animals to the prescribed standards does not exist.
- (c) To provide technical and financial assistance to the zoos which have potential to improve and come upto the prescribed standards. Since its inception the Central Zoo Authority has provided financial assistance of Rs. 27.48 crores to various zoos for the improvement of animal housing, upkeep, health care facility, veterinary care and rescue centres.

- ◆ Central Zoo Authority has organised regular courses with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun for capacity building and grading the skills of zoo managers, zoo supervisors and zoo veterinarians. They have also been sent to small courses to Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, U.K. for exposure to zoo management in the developed countries.
- ◆ All the zoos having lions and tigers in their collection have been asked to carry out screening of these animals for blood borne diseases and to take preventive and prophylactic action.
- ◆ The overcrowding of tigers and lions should be reduced by transferring animals to other zoos.
- ◆ Zoo authorities have been directed to beef up the security.

National policy for empowerment of women

4627. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the National Policy for Empowerment of Women;

(b) if so, whether National and State-level councils would be set up to oversee operationalisation of this policy;

(c) whether the National Council would be headed by the Prime Minister and the State Councils by the respective State Chief Ministers;

(d) the main aims of this proposed policy; and

(e) to what extent this policy would be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Policy envisages setting up of a Council headed by the Prime Minister at the National to oversee